

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI  
FROM : SAC, Philadelphia

DATE: September 18, 1947

SUBJECT: FLYING OBJECT REPORTED OVER PHILADELPHIA  
AUGUST 6, 1947  
SABOTAGE

Remytel August 7 last.

by the [redacted] Philadelphia, who is employed  
Philadelphia, advised as follows: Phila- b7c

Between 10:30 and 10:45 p.m. on August 6, 1947, she was sitting on the steps of her home with [redacted]. She was facing north and observed a large white object traveling at a very fast rate of speed to the south. There was a buzzing sound, not too loud but plainly audible, just after this object passed through the air. This white object left in its trail a thin streak of smoke, which was grayish in color. b7c

Miss [redacted] Philadelphia, who is employed by the [redacted] INC., Philadelphia, stated she was sitting on the steps of [redacted] home on the evening of August 6, 1947, around 10:45 p.m. engaging in conversation with [redacted] when [redacted] abruptly stopped in the middle of her conversation and appeared to be frightened. [redacted] at that time was sitting in a position in which she was facing south. She did not see any object in the sky after noting [redacted] change of expression, but she did hear a slight buzzing sound. b7c

[redacted] Philadelphia, an insurance agent, who was a former pilot of B-24's in the Army Air Corps, advised as follows: b7c

He was sitting on the steps of his home around 10:45 p.m. on August 6, 1947, with his wife; and his neighbors, the [redacted] family, were sitting on their steps next door to the residence of [redacted]. All of the above parties were facing east. [redacted] noticed at this time an object, emitting a bluish-white flame, passing quickly through the air. The object was traveling from northeast to southwest. Using his experience in the Army Air Corps as a guide, [redacted] estimated the above object was between 1000 and 3000 feet in the air and traveling at a rate of between 400 to 500 miles an hour. This object did not lose elevation as it passed through the air and left either smoke or a condensation trail in its former path, which lasted for about two seconds. A hissing sound accompanied the passing of this object. This sound was moderate and not nearly as loud as the noise accompanying the passage of a rocket ship. b7c

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[redacted] who is a retired police officer b7c  
of the Philadelphia Police Department, advised as follows:

Around 10:45 p.m. on August 6, 1947, he and his wife were sitting on the steps of their home, when [redacted] noticed an object, resembling to him a giant firecracker, pass quickly through the air. [redacted] heard no noise, but the object had completely passed from view in a southern direction within a split second. It left a fiery trail for about 100 feet. August 6, 1947, b7c  
was a clear night, and no storm was brewing. [redacted] was sure the object he saw was no falling star, and he noted the above object did not seem to be falling but maintained the same altitude.

The wives of [redacted] and [redacted] verified the accounts of their husbands b7c  
as to the above-mentioned object.

It is to be noted that the [redacted] and the [redacted] live in Northeast Philadelphia near Oxford Circle, which is about ten miles removed from the residence of [redacted]. [redacted] residence is located in the western part of Philadelphia. The [redacted] and [redacted] are not known to the above-mentioned [redacted] and [redacted]. It is further noted the observation of Miss b7c  
[redacted] the [redacted] and the [redacted] roughly correspond. All of the above persons seem reliable and not the type to seek publicity or to spread rumors.

[redacted] called the "Inquirer", Philadelphia newspaper, and inquired if it could offer any explanation as to what they had seen. A representative of that paper had advised [redacted] that b7c  
the object they saw may have been some product of an oil refinery or chemical company in their neighborhood.

Both the Offices of Naval Intelligence and Army Intelligence in Philadelphia were requested by the Philadelphia Office to ascertain if either the Army or the Navy was doing any experimental work on new types of planes or equipment, in the vicinity of Philadelphia. Such was done with negative results. The Office of Naval Intelligence indicated that an explosion had occurred at the CHARLES LENNIG CHEMICAL COMPANY on August 6, 1947.

[redacted], Safety Department of the CHARLES LENNIG CHEMICAL COMPANY, b7c  
INC., 5000 Richmond Street, Philadelphia, advised as follows:

The above company is a manufacturer and distributor of chemicals. A fire had occurred on a dump of the company on August 6, 1947, but was quickly gotten under control. Such fire was confined to the company's premises and could not have been observed from outside the plant. The CHARLES

Director, FBI

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LENNIG COMPANY is about two and one-half miles southeast from Oxford Circle. The account of the fire does not seem to fit into the general pattern of the above-mentioned flying object, for it is noted that the flying object was allegedly traveling from a position northeast of Oxford Circle to a south-westerly direction in Philadelphia. [redacted] pointed out that, to the best of his knowledge, there are no oil refineries and chemical companies located around Oxford Circle or north of such, but that all of the companies of this type are several miles south of Oxford Circle. b7c

All logical investigation having been conducted, no further action will be taken on the instant matter unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau.

FFB/ctg  
98-1762

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

AUG 7 1947

TELETYPE

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. E. A. Tamm
- Mr. Clegg
- Mr. Glavin
- Mr. Ladd
- Mr. Nichols
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Tracy
- Mr. Egan
- Mr. Gurnea
- Mr. Harbo
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Pennington
- Mr. Quinn
- Mr. Nease
- Miss Gandy

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[Redacted]

WASHINGTON 17 FROM PHILADELPHIA 8-7-47 9-30 PM DST

DIRECTOR FBI URGENT <sup>40</sup> Flying Discs

FLYING OBJECT REPORTED OVER PHILA. AUGUST SIX, NINETEEN FORTY-SEVEN.

SABOTAGE. THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER ON AUGUST SEVEN, NINETEEN FORTY SEVEN CARRIED ITEM CONCERNING FLYING OBJECTS OBSERVED OVER PHILA. ON EVENING OF AUGUST SIX, FORTY SEVEN. PEOPLE REPORTED AS OBSERVING SUCH INTERVIEWED BY PHILA. OFFICE, AND SUBSTANTIALLY FURNISHED FOLLOWING INFORMATION. AT TEN FORTY FIVE, AUGUST SIX, NINETEEN FORTY SEVEN, A BLUISH WHITE FLAMING OBJECT WAS OBSERVED AT A HEIGHT OF ONE ~~THOUSAND~~ THOUSAND FEET OR MORE OVER PHILADELPHIA PROCEEDING FROM A NORTHEASTERLY TO A SOUTHWESTERLY DIRECTION.

THIS OBJECT LEFT A ~~THICK~~ TRAIL OF SMOKE WHICH LASTED FOR ABOUT TWO SECONDS AND W HISSING OR BUZZING SOUND WAS AUDIBLE AFTER THE SIGHT OF SUCH OBJECT. PEOPLE OBSERVING THE SAME ~~SEEMED RESPONSIBLE~~ AND RELIABLE, AND INCLUDE A ~~FORMER~~ FORMER ARMY AIR CORPS PILOT. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE ABOVE MENTIONED OBJECT ~~WAS A SET~~ PROPELLED PLANE SINCE THE ACCOMPANYING SOUND WAS NOT AS LOUD AS THAT MADE BY JET PROPELLED PLANES. HE ESTIMATED ABOVE OBJECT TRAVELED AT A RATE OF

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WAS A SET  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Boardman

PAGE TWO

ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED TO FIVE HUNDRED MILES PER HOUR. INQUIRIES BEING MADE BY ARMY AND NAVY INTELLIGENCE FORCES, PHILA. ON THE REQUEST OF THE PHILA. OFFICE TO DETERMINE IF EITHER ARMY OR NAVY ARE DOING ANY EXPERIMENTAL WORK ON NEW TYPES OF PLANES IN VICINITY OF PHILA. THEY WILL ADVISE PHILA. OFFICE IN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS. LETTER OF DETAILS WILL FOLLOW.

BOARDMAN

HOLD PLS